Press release

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Threats from severe weather

21 March 2002

Following another British winter of storms and floods, weather organisations around the world are highlighting how much is being done to help predict severe weather events.

'Reducing vulnerability to weather and climate extremes' is the theme to this year's World Meteorological Day, held on 23 March. The World Meteorological Organization has estimated that, globally, severe weather events and natural disasters claim nearly 250,000 lives annually with costs of between £70 billion and £140 billion in property damage.

In the UK, the Met Office operates the National Severe Weather Warning Service, which reduces the risk of life and property. It is working on improving these forecasts of severe weather and understanding their impacts and response action. The Met Office Hadley Centre researches climate change. Over the last 12 years, the centre has developed a series of climate predictions models which are used in a variety of assessments of the vulnerability to climate change for different countries around the world.

Notes

Background feature

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